



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Thank you for joining us today.

For Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayer List, [visit this week's E-Pistle here](#), where you can also subscribe to receive it by email, if you like.

***- stand if you wish to, and are able.**

Congregational Responses in Bold

Prelude *What I Was Made For (by Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell)*
Cello solo, Keegan Young
(Please use this time for quiet reflection and preparation for worship)

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of Altar Candles & Ringing in the Hour

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

Introit (please stand) *We Gather in Love*

We come to gather in our weakness, to reconnect as seekers, and worship one true God. We come to light our lives on fire, with mercy we inspire, we gather all as one. United in one Spirit, each different in appearance, all are welcome in the house of God. We gather in love.

Call to Worship

Howard Thurman

Reader: Sue Scott

One: Lord, open unto me. Open unto me.

Many: Light for my darkness and courage for my fears.

One: Open unto me.

Many: Hope for my despair and peace for my turmoil.

One: Open unto me.

Many: Joy for my sorrow and strength for my weaknesses.

One: Open unto me.

Many: Wisdom for my confession and self-forgiveness when I have moved far from you.

One: Open unto me.

Many: Love for my hates, thy Self for my self.

One: Lord, lord, open unto me.

Opening Hymn

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

(New Century Hymnal No.403)

(See music at the end of this document)

Unison Prayer

Shantideva

May I become at all times—both now and forever—a protector of those without protection, a guide for those who have lost their way, a ship for those with oceans to cross, a bridge for those with rivers to cross, a sanctuary for those in danger, a lamp for those without light, a place of refuge for those who lack shelter, and a servant to all in need...for as long as space endures, and for as long as living beings remain. Until then may I, too, abide to dispel the misery in the world. Amen

Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

Passing the Peace

We Pray for Peace

*We pray for peace, for peace among the nations.
We pray for peace, good will among the people.
'Til love comes down like a summer rain;
'til the rivers of justice flow again,
'til the day of jubilee has come;
we pray for peace upon our planet home.*

Words of Integration & Guidance

Fr. Richard Rohr

Until we walk with despair, and still have hope, we will not know that our hope was not just hope in ourselves, in our own successes, in our power to make a difference, in our image of what perfection should be. We need hope from a much deeper Source. We need a hope larger than ourselves. Until we walk with personal issues of despair, we will never uncover the Real Hope on the other side of that despair. Until we allow the crash and crush of our false stories, we will never discover the Real Life beyond what only seems like death. Remember, death is an imaginary loss of an imaginary self that is going to pass away anyway. This very journey is at the heart of what Jesus came to reveal.

Deep in Our Hearts

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Ephesians 4:4-7

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Thomas 3

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

What Was I Made For? The Stories That We Tell

Jeremy Lund

**Offering
& Offertory**

The Mission/How Great Thou Art
(written by Ennio Morricone and Stuart K Hine,
arranged by The Piano Guys)
Cello solo performed by Keegan Young

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: *Alleluia!*

One: O God,

Many: *Hear our prayer.*

***Doxology** *Lenten Doxology*

*Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts.
Amen.*

***Celebration of Holy Communion**

One: God be with you.

Many: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: *We lift them up to God.*

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: *It is good to give God thanks & praise*

***Creation's Praise** *Isaiah 6:3*

*Holy holy holy Lord, God of power and might;
heav'n and earth are full of your glory:
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!*

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread *Let Us Be Bread*

*Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord,
broken and shared, life for the world.
Let us be wine, love freely poured,
let us be one with the Lord.*

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

(grape juice only on both sides of the aisle)

Receive the Bread of Life. *Amen.*

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. *Amen.*

***The Lord's Prayer**

Aramaic translation

*O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos. Focus your light within us - make it useful. Create your reign of unity now through our fiery hearts and willing hands. Help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures. Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all. Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose. Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light and sound to the cosmos.
Amen*

***Hymn of Sending**

I Will Trust in the Lord

(New Century Hymnal No.416)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

***Benediction**

Postlude

Wayfaring Stranger

American Spiritual, arr. by M Hayes

Peter Black

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community
and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>

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My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Heb. 6:19; Rev. 11:15

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
 2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
 3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
 4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in

right-teous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
 chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
 Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain
 whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

I Will Trust in the Lord

African-American traditional

1 I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the
 2 I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y right, I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y

3
 Lord, I will trust in the Lord, till I die.
 right, I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y right, till I die.

I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the
 I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y right, I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y

3
 Lord, I will trust in the Lord, till I die.
 right, I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y right, till I die.

One use of this traditional song has been in African-American

Tune: TRUST IN THE LORD Irr.